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WORLD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE, 1910

Report of the American Executive Committee.

THE REV. ARTHUR J. BROWN, D.D., Chairman.

Presented to the Conference of Foreign Missions Boards in the United States and Canada, New York, January 14, 1909.

The Ecumenical Missionary Conference held in Exeter Hall, London, in 1888, marked an era in co-operative missionary work. The next Conference, in Carnegie Hall, New York, in 1900, was on a much larger scale and it contributed powerfully to the development of those mighty movements which are signalizing the opening decade of the twentieth century.

It was felt that there should be another Ecumenical Conference in 1910, and that as the last one was held in America, the next should be held in Europe. Correspondence showed that leaders in Great Britain were in sympathy with this feeling, and in November, 1906, the conveners of seven Societies of Scotland met in Glasgow and invited the Boards in Scotland to appoint three of their number as delegates to an official conference.

This Conference was held in Edinburgh, January 29, 1907, the thirty-seven delegates representing twenty Societies. The place of meeting of the proposed Conference having been discussed, and a communication from America favorable to the Conference being held in Scotland in 1910 having been read, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

(I.) "That this meeting of delegates, largely representing the various Foreign Mission Societies in Scotland, heartily approves of the Third Ecumenical Missionary Conference being invited to meet in Edinburgh in June, 1910.

(II.) "That the various Foreign Mission Societies in Great Britain and Ireland, raising funds and appointing agents, be asked to approve of the above proposal, and, if favorable, to nominate two delegates; and that Societies having more than one hundred European missionaries be requested to send an additional delegate for every hundred or fraction of a hundred.

(III.) "That the delegates thus elected form a General Committee, with power to add to their number, and that this Committee, in the name of the co-operating Foreign Mission Societies in Great Britain and Ireland, issue the necessary invitations, and arrange for the meetings of the Conference."

These resolutions were forwarded to the Boards in Great Britain and Ireland, sixty-three in all, and they were asked to appoint delegates to constitute a General Committee of the Ecumenical Conference. Thirty-seven Societies responded, appointing seventy-two delegates. This General Committee met June 12, 1907, and chose an Executive Committee. At a second meeting, October 10, 1907, the Executive Committee was enlarged and sub-committees were appointed.

In America, the Conference of the Foreign Missions Boards in the United States and Canada, held in January, 1906, had

instructed a committee to consider the feasibility of holding another Ecumenical Conference. Its report to its Fourteenth Annual Conference in 1907 resulted in the adoption by unanimous vote of the following resolutions:

"*Resolved,* That this Conference looks with favor upon the proposal to have the third Ecumenical Conference meet in 1910 in Scotland, but having heard from Rev. Paul de Schweinitz that the German missionary Societies were expecting to lay a similar proposal for a conference in the year 1910 before this meeting, and no such communication having been received, it is requested that the Scottish Committee confer with the German Committee looking toward agreement, and that this Conference agree to accept whatever invitation may thus ultimately be extended.

"That a Committee be appointed on Third Ecumenical Conference to co-operate in arranging for the proposed conference in Scotland or in Germany, or, in the event of such a conference not being decided upon, to consider the question anew and submit some further report.

"That the Committee on Reference and Counsel be this committee."

The Committee on Reference and Counsel accordingly carried on the correspondence. By 1908, it had become clear that work on so large a scale demanded a special and larger committee. Consequently a committee, consisting of all the members of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, with the addition of Mr. John R. Mott, M.A., and Mr. Robert E. Speer, M.A., was appointed, the committee being given power to make further additions.

The Committee organized by electing the Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D.D., Chairman; Mr. Henry K. Carroll, LL.D., Secretary; Mr. Henry Grant, Assistant Secretary; and Mr. Dwight H. Day, Treasurer.

The membership of the Committee being widely scattered, it was voted that the traveling expenses of members who reside outside of New York should be paid; but with a view to economy, the members of the Committee who reside in New York were constituted an Advisory Council with the chairman of the Executive Committee as chairman ex-officio, this Council to have power to attend to ordinary business in behalf of the Executive Committee, so that the full Committee meets only when the business is sufficiently important to justify distant members in making the trip to New York.

In accordance with the authority to make such additions to our numbers and to create such sub-committees as we might deem necessary, the Rev. Harlan P. Beach, D.D., the Hon. Samuel B. Capen, LL.D., the Rev. R. P. Mackay, D.D., the Rev. W. Douglas Mackenzie, D.D., Mr. Silas McBee, Mr. William Jay Schieffelin, Ph.D., the Rev. Alexander Sutherland, D.D., and the Rev. Canon L. Norman Tucker, M.A., were added to the Committee, and the following sub-committees were appointed, the chairman of the Executive Committee being a member ex-officio of each:

Press: Silas McBee, Chairman; John Bancroft Devins, D.D., Charles

H. Fahs, F. H. Demarest, John W. Wood, H. A. Bridgman, J. A. McDonald, J. S. Dickerson, John B. Drury.

Leaflets: James L. Barton, D.D., Chairman; Robert E. Speer, M.A., John R. Mott, M.A., Silas McBee, Wm. J. Schieffelin, W. Henry Grant.

Pre-Conference Meetings in the United States and Canada: Samuel B. Capen, LL.D., Chairman; Robert E. Speer, M.A., Wm. J. Schieffelin, Ph.D., S. W. Woodward, Alfred E. Marling, J. Edgar Leaycraft, N. W. Rowell.

Finance: Wm. Jay Schieffelin, Ph.D., Chairman; John S. Kennedy, John H. Converse, John Crosby Brown, Gilbert Colgate, John S. Huyler, Alfred E. Marling, H. A. Wilder, L. H. Severance, S. W. Woodward.

Delegates: Robert E. Speer, M.A., Chairman; John R. Mott, M.A., Silas McBee, Alexander Sutherland, D.D., Walter R. Lambuth, D.D., R. P. Mackay, D.D., L. Norman Tucker, M.A., W. Henry Grant.

Some and perhaps all of these committees will be enlarged as the work develops. The Executive Committee held a conference with them April 22nd.

The Executive Committee has held numerous meetings and conducted large correspondence, but the main work is only fairly begun. We report at this time progress along the following lines:

DATE.

The opening day of the Conference is to be June 14th, 1910, and the sessions will continue for about ten days.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

At the London Conference, there were about 1,600 members representing 138 Societies, and at the Ecumenical Conference in New York there were over 3,000 delegates and missionaries representing 214 organizations. This gave a Conference magnificent in size and inspirational value, but it was too large to make a careful study of missionary problems.

It is desirable that the Edinburgh Conference should not be devoted merely to educational and inspirational purposes. Its object is thorough study of the most vital questions of missionary opportunity and policy. Great public meetings will be held in connection with the Conference, not only in Edinburgh, but in other cities of Great Britain, and at these meetings eminent speakers will present the opportunities, the visions, the challenges, the crises and the resources of our generation. But the Conference itself, especially the forenoon sessions, will be literally a conference, where full and frank interchange of views is practicable.

The character of the Conference will be influenced by the object which has just been stated. It will be more like the last Decennial Missionary Conference in Madras in 1902 and the Centenary Missionary Conference in Shanghai in 1907. It should extend to the whole non-Christian world the plan recently carried out with such marked success at the Shanghai Conference. A conference of this character would have been impossible even so recently as the year 1900. The precedents of the Madras and Shanghai Conferences guide us now. We

contemplate carrying out the same idea on a world-wide scale. The time has come for missionary leaders to come to a common understanding as to the best ways and means of carrying forward the work. Questions press from all parts of the world. The Boards must make adequate answer.

To attain the aim of this Conference, the membership is to be limited to that number which experience has shown to be the maximum if any real conference and study are to be had. The following basis of representation has therefore been agreed upon:

"1. Societies and Boards administering funds and sending out missionaries for propagation of the Gospel among non-Christian peoples, and possessing an annual income of $10,000 and over, shall be entitled to representation.

"2. No auxiliaries of Missionary Societies merely raising funds for transmission to the headquarters of the Society shall be entitled to representation.

"3. The basis of representation shall be the average of the total home income of the Society for the past three years, as shown in the last three published Annual Reports, this income to include contributions, interest on investments, and legacies received at home and used for the current expenditure of the year.

"4. Societies possessing an annual income of $10,000 and upwards shall be entitled to one representative, those having an annual income of $20,000 and over to two representatives, with an additional representative for every $20,000 or part of $20,000 of income above $40,000.

"5. In the case of Societies, part of whose work is carried on in professedly Christian countries, only that portion of the income shall be taken into account which is estimated to be expended on work among non-Christians."

On this basis, Great Britain will have approximately 450 delegates, the United States and Canada 450, the Continent of Europe and the British colonies 150. The British and American Executive Committees will invite about a hundred honorary delegates, making a total of approximately 1,150. The returns that we have received thus far indicate that the Boards and Societies of the United States and Canada will be entitled to representation as follows, though later reports will probably require a few additions and corrections:

	Income.	Delegates.
Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S.	$261,000	13
Canadian Church Missionary Society		(Doubtful)
American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions	779,133	40
China Inland Mission		4
Board of Foreign Missions of the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America. Average of between	20,000	2
Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America	197,468	10
American Christian Convention, over	10,000	1
Foreign Missions Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada	222,500	11
Board of Foreign Missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (General Synod)	53,824	3
Foreign Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association	22,000	2

	Income.	Delegates.
Foreign Missionary Society of the United Brethren in Christ	46,206	5
Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society	20,000	1
Reformed Presbyterian Church (Gen. Synod), income less than	10,000	0
Board of Missions and Church Extension of the United Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South		1
Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church	1,060,000	53
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the M. E. Church	660,792	33
Missionary Society of the Methodist Church in Canada	100,000	15
United Baptist Foreign Mission Board (Maritime Provinces)	27,000.00	2
Central Conference of Free Baptists	32,000.00	2
Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America	8,419.00	1
Methodist Episcopal Church, South:		
Foreign Missionary contribution.....$374,250		
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. 226,192	600,442	21
Protestant Episcopal Church in the U. S. A.	397,860	20
Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the United Evangelical Church and Board of Church Extension		1
American Bible Society	200,000	10
Central Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America	56,285.86	3
Foreign Mission Board Southern Baptist Convention		12
American Advent Mission Society	21,000.00	2
Board of Foreign Missions Reformed Church in U. S.	96,100.00	5
International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations	199,890.00	10
Executive Board of the Moravian Church in America	22,237.18	2
Christian and Missionary Alliance	118,726.09	6
Foreign Christian Missionary Society		14
Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church	43,570.35	3
Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Canada	50,000	3
American Baptist Missionary Union		50
Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of North America	216,171	11
Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Protestant Church		1
Foreign Mission Board of the German Evangelical Synod of North America	28,217.53	2
Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.	1,088,800	55

These delegates are to be selected by their respective Boards from clergymen and laymen, men and women. Each Board is requested to include among its delegates, if practicable, any of its members who may have been appointed on the Commissions. Great care should be taken in the selection of delegates, and no one should be appointed merely because it happens to be convenient for him to make a trip to Europe at the time

of the Conference. Fitness worthily to represent a great cause at a crucial period should be the sole test.

Each Board will naturally place in its list of delegates some of its ablest and wisest missionaries. The number of missionaries that a Board can appoint will necessarily be small, as only those can be enrolled who have been appointed delegates. The coincidence of furloughs is not an adequate reason for selection. The attendance of the ablest missionaries is desired, so that they will have influence in the deliberations of the Conference.

Some of the leaders of the native churches should also be chosen if practicable. These, too, should be men of strength and leadership, the best types of their respective churches. They should, if possible, have a knowledge of the English language so that they can understand and participate in the discussions of the Conference. They should be men who will not be spoiled by the lionizing which they may receive, or alienated by any unpleasant things that they may see during their travels. In selecting the whole delegation, the aim should be to secure the presence of those who are best qualified to give the conclusions of the Conference weight throughout the Christian world.

Delegates will be expected to pay their own expenses, and where exceptions should be made, the responsibility for the payments involved will rest upon the Boards concerned. The question of entertainment in Edinburgh is under consideration by the British Committee, which will make an announcement in due time.

All persons attending the Conference who have not been appointed delegates by their respective Boards will be regarded as visitors without official status, whether they are secretaries, members of Boards, missionaries, pastors, laymen, or wives of delegates. In the case of missionaries, however, the local committee will, as far as possible, give preference in the distribution of visitors' tickets to the gallery, and will also aid in finding suitable boarding houses, provided application is made in advance.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

It early became evident that the labor of preparation for so momentous a Conference was so vast and that the questions to be considered were so numerous and complicated, that immediate personal conference was desirable. Accordingly the British and American Executive Committees appointed an International Committee of nineteen to meet in England last summer, consider the whole subject and work out the main lines to be followed. The American representatives were the Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., the Rev. Canon L. Norman Tucker, M.A., Mr. Silas McBee, Mr. John R. Mott, M.A., and the Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D.D. The other representa-

tives were from England, Scotland, Germany, Norway and Sweden.

The Committee met in Oxford, England, July 14, and held three daily sessions until Saturday, the 18th. Recess was then taken till Monday, when the Committee reconvened in London for a final session. All of the nineteen members were present. The meetings were characterized to a notable degree by unity, intelligence and enthusiasm, and were pervaded throughout by a deep devotional spirit. A wide range of topics was discussed and many important conclusions were reached. The American representatives did not deem it expedient to act as a representative unit from America, but took their places, as did the representatives from other countries, as individual members of the International Committee, no trace of sectionalism appearing at any time.

NAME OF THE CONFERENCE.

It was decided after mature deliberation to change the name of the Conference from "The Ecumenical Missionary Conference" to "World Missionary Conference, 1910." The reasons for this change were that the term ecumenical has a distinctly historical and technical significance. It is associated with conciliar action, and as the meeting at Edinburgh is to be a conference and not a council, a deliberative and not a legislative body, the word ecumenical is inappropriate and misleading.

The Rev. James Buchanan and the Rev. A. B. Wann, who were appointed Secretaries of the British Committee, June 12, 1907, were obliged to resign, the former on account of illness and the latter on account of transfer to India. It was deemed wise, in selecting a new Secretary, to find one who could devote his entire time to the work. The Rev. J. H. Oldham, of Edinburgh, was chosen. He is one of the younger missionary leaders of the United Free Church of Scotland and was a missionary in India until compelled by ill-health to return. He is admirably qualified for this responsible post, and he has begun his work in a way which amply justifies the expectations of his friends.

COMMISSIONS.

Adequate consideration of the larger subjects to be presented to the Conference involves preliminary investigation, the gathering and systematizing of vast masses of facts and the experiences of many Boards and workers in various fields. The whole field of modern missions should be thoroughly surveyed and conclusions carefully worked out for the convenience of the Conference. It was therefore decided to appoint eight Commissions, as follows:

I. *Carrying the Gospel to all the World.*

1. Unoccupied and under-occupied fields.
2. Forces and means required for different fields.
3. Methods of advance and occupation.

4. Special considerations rendering the work urgent, e. g., the aggressions of Islam, the Buddhist revival, the awakening of the East.

5. Under the direction of this Commission, a sub-committee will prepare a survey of present missionary operations.

II. *The Native Church and Its Workers.*

1. Native Church.—Present conditions in respect of self-support, self-government, evangelistic effort, and special hindrances to the development of church life.

2. The relation of the organization of the Church to native institutions existing prior to the introduction of Christianity.

3. Movements towards national churches and native missionary societies.

4. Relation of the Home Church to the promotion of the independence of native churches, and to the safeguarding of them from perils (e. g., eclecticism in thought, overburdening with western organization, etc.).

5. Native Workers.—Present conditions in respect of: (a) Classes of workers; (b) Relation to missionaries; (c) Responsibilities entrusted to them.

6. Further steps to devolve larger responsibilities upon them.

III. *Education in Relation to the Christianization of National Life.*

1. The Christianization of national thought and character, especially through (a) Institutions of higher learning; (b) Literature.

2. The creation of Christian leaders for (a) The Christian ministry; (b) Other Christian service; (c) Civil Life.

IV. *The Missionary Message in Relation to Non-Christian Religions.*

1. The elements of Christianity which have most influenced non-Christians.

2. The Christian apologetic in relation to (a) Hinduism; (b) Buddhism; (c) Islam, and (d) Animistic religions.

V. *The Preparation of Missionaries.*

1. At home.

2. In the field.

VI. *The Home Base of Missions.*

How to engage the energies and resources of the whole Church in the missionary enterprise.

1. Knowledge of missions through, e. g., mission study, literature, etc.

2. Intercessory prayer.

3. Personal service.

4. Financial contributions, (a) Spiritual basis; (b) Increased amount.

5. New forward movements, e. g., (a) Student Volunteer Movement; (b) Young People's Missionary Movement; (c) Laymen's Missionary Movement. Their relationship to denominational societies; their progress and promise.

6. Ministerial leadership.

VII. *Relation of Missions to Governments.*

1. Home, Foreign and Colonial.

2. Diplomatic relationships.

3. Limits of co-operation with governments.

4. Conservation of the spiritual (non-political and non-civil) character of the missionary enterprise.

VIII. *Co-operation and Promotion of Unity.*

1. Plans in operation.

2. Advantages.

3. Possibilities.

Each of these Commissions will make wide investigations and prepare a full and careful report, which will be printed and distributed before the Conference, so that there will be opportunity for all to study it. On the appointed day, the Commission will have thirty minutes to present an oral summary of its report, and thereafter no member of the Commission will be permitted to have the floor, except on request of the President of the Conference. At the Shanghai Conference much of the time devoted to the reports of Commissions was occupied by the chairmen and members, so that others had little opportunity. We wish to exalt freedom of discussion at the Edinburgh Conference, in order that delegates who are not members of Commissions may be able to debate the reports. In this way, a real consensus of opinion can be obtained. The reports of the Commissions and the discussions upon them will occupy less than half of the sessions of the Conference. There will be ample room, therefore, for other topics, which will be assigned to individual speakers.

Great care was exercised in selecting the members of these Commissions. The ablest and wisest men and women were desired. The services of several eminent missionaries was coveted, but the time is limited and it would be difficult for a Commission to do its work if its membership were scattered over the world. This consideration unfortunately made it impossible to place missionaries upon the Commissions, save in the case of one whose presence in England made him available. The full list is as follows:

I. *Carrying the Gospel to All the World.*

Mr. John R. Mott, M.A., Chairman, The Rev. Geo. Robson, D.D., Dr. Julius Richter, Vice-Chairman. Bishop Latrobe, Pastor Wilhelm Sorensen, M. Goegner, Bishop of St. Albans, Eugene Stock, The Rev. A. Taylor, Marshall Broomhall, Esq., Miss Ruth Rouse, Mr. Frank Lenwood, The Rev. James S. Dennis, D.D., The Rev. Prof. Harlan P. Beach, D.D., The Rev. Samuel M. Zwemer, D.D., The Rev. R. P. Mackay, D.D., The Rev. Chas. R. Watson, D.D., The Rev. F. P. Haggard, D.D., Mr. Hans P. Anderson, Mrs. J. M. Cornell.

II. *The Native Church and Its Workers.*

The Rev. J. Campbell Gibson, D.D., Chairman, The Rev. Walter R. Lambuth, D.D., M.D., Vice-Chairman. The Rev. Wardlaw Thomson, D.D., Bishop of Aberdeen, Mr. Duncan Maclaren, Principal Lindsay, The Rev. Dr. Youngson, Bishop Ingham, Mrs. Creighton, The Rev. C. E. Wilson, B.M.S., Canon B. K. Cunningham, Mr. Harry Wade Hicks, The Rev. R. J. Willingham, D.D., The Rev. Alex. Sutherland, D.D., The Rev. S. H. Chester, D.D., Herr Frohmeyer, The Rev. Eric Folke, The Rev. Kriele, Mrs. C. H. Daniels.

III. *Education in Relation to the Christianization of National Life.*

Bishop of Birmingham, Chairman, The Rev. Prof. Edward C. Moore, D.D., Vice-Chairman. Prof. M. E. Sadler, The Rev. Lord Wm. Gascoyne-Cecil, The Rev. Lionel Ford Repton, The Rev. A. R. Buckland, R.T.S., The Rev. J. Morrison, D.D., The Rev. W. T. A. Barber, W. Temple, Miss Lathan, The Rev. Wm. Boulton, Prof. Ernest F. Burton, Prof. William Chamberlain, Mr. George Wharton Pepper, The Rev.

John F. Goucher, D.D., Principal R. A. Falconer, Miss Grace H. Dodge.

IV. *The Missionary Message in Relation to Non-Christian Religions.*

The Rev. Prof. D. S. Cairns, Chairman, Mr. Robert E. Speer, Vice-Chairman. The Rev. W. Dilger, Bishop H. Danell, Licentiate J. Warneck, The Rev. Dr. Lepsius, The Rev. George Rouse, D.D., The Rev. J. E. Padfield, The Rev. Prof. W. P. Paterson, D.D., Bishop of Clogher, C. A. Grierson, LL.D., The Rev. George Owen, L.M.S., Canon C. H. Robinson, The Rev. George Packer, The Rev. Richard Glover, President E. Y. Mullens, D.D., The Rev. A. B. Leonard, D.D., The Rev. Robert Mackenzie, D.D.

V. *The Preparation of Missionaries.*

Rev. W. Douglas Mackenzie, D.D., Chairman, J. O. F. Murray, Vice-Chairman. Rev. S. A. Donaldson, D.D., Prof. Henry Cowan, D.D., Miss Small, Miss G. A. Collock, The Rev. A. E. Garvie, D.D., The Rev. Wm. Park, D.D., The Rev. Canon O'Meara, Prof. O. E. Brown, Dean E. I. Bosworth, The Rev. Prof. Charles R. Erdman, D.D., Mr. Henry W. Frost, Prof. Adolf Kolmodin, Prof. Meinhof, Miss Gibson.

VI. *The Home Base of Missions.*

The Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Chairman. Herr Frederick Würz, G. W. Macalpine, Esq., The Rev. J. P. Maud, Vice Chairman. Karl Fries, Ph.D., Canon Bullock Webster, T. W. R. Lunt, Rev. Tissington Tatlow, The Rev. A. N. Johnson, The Rev. J. Fairley Daly, Williamson Lamplough, Mrs. Robert Whyte, The Rev. W. H. Rankine, N. W. Rowell, Esq., The Rev. A. Woodruff Halsey, D.D., Mr. John W. Wood, Mr. J. Lovell Murray, Mr. J. R. Pepper, Mr. J. Campbell White, Mr. L. H. Severance, Mrs. Helen Barrett Montgomery.

VII. *Relation of Missions to Governments.*

Lord Balfour, Chairman, Hon. Seth Low, LL.D., Vice-Chairman. Admiral A. T. Mahan, U.S.N., Hon. R. L. Borden, The Rev. Thomas S. Barbour, D.D., The Right Rev. William Lawrence, D.D., LL.D., The Rev. George Cousins, Sir Charles Elliott, The Rev. Marshall Hartley, Sir Albert Spicer, The Rev. Lawson Forfeith, Hon. John W. Foster, LL.D., The Rev. Prof. Mirbt, D.D., Rev. Lars Dahle, The Rev. Prof. Hansleiter, Prof. Rufus E. Jones.

VIII. *Co-operation and Promotion of Unity.*

Sir Andrew H. L. Fraser, K.C.S.I., LL.D., Chairman, Mr. Silas McBee, Vice-Chairman. Bishop of Southwark, the Dean of Westminster, Wm. Wilson, M.D., The Rev. Alex. Miller, D.D., The Rev. Prebendary H. W. Fox, The Rev. J. H. Ritson, The Rev. W. Y. Fullerton, The Rev. William Goudie, The Rev. W. H. Findlay, The Rev. Gustav Warneck, D.D., Dr. Oehler, The Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D.D., The Rev. J. W. Bashford, D.D., Right Rev. W. C. Doane, D.D., LL.D., The Rev. Canon L. Norman Tucker, M.A., President A. H. Strong, D.D., LL.D., Prof. Henry E. Jacobs, D.D.

We frankly wrote to these appointees that the Conference was to be an event of such magnitude and far-reaching influence that it was entitled to the time of the busiest people. Indeed few men are carrying heavier burdens than some who are doing much to make this Conference a success. The letters of acceptance have been notable for their testimony to the importance of the work and the privilege of having a part in it. The general attitude is well expressed by President Mullins and Bishop Doane, who wrote:

"It would be impossible for me to decline an invitation to serve on a Commission which has to deal with a matter of such momentous import. No meeting which Christian people might convene can be of more far-reaching importance than the World Missionary Conference in 1910. Surely no man who longs and prays for the coming of the Kingdom, and on whose heart is the burden of a perishing world, can withhold his hearty support and co-operation in making the Conference a great success. Certainly, I accept the appointment with pleasure.

(Signed) E. Y. MULLINS."

"I am too keenly interested in the subject and too strongly in sympathy with the movement not to accept my appointment as a member of this Commission. . . . I will do what in me lies, and at least I shall be very pleased and proud to have my name associated in this way with the movement itself.

(Signed) W. C. DOANE.

As the British Executive Committee is necessarily too large and too widely scattered to meet frequently, and as it is highly desirable that there should be some bond of union between the eight Commissions, the International Committee appointed a Central Advisory Committee of six members in Great Britain, whose work is to be: "(a) To carry out the instructions of the International Committee in relation to appointments on the Commissions and the filling of vacancies. (b) To transmit to the Commissions the instructions of the International Committee with reference to their work, together with such explanations as seem to be necessary. (c) To examine and compare the sets of preliminary questions prepared by the Commissions, with a view of calling attention to any points on which there might be risk of overlapping or omission. (d) To receive the draft reports of the Commissions, and offer any suggestions which seem to be called for. Beyond carrying out the instructions of the International Committee, this Committee shall have only advisory powers."

The following were chosen as members of this Central Advisory Committee: The Rev. George Robson, D.D., Chairman; the Rev. J. H. Oldham, Secretary; the Rev. Prebendary H. W. Fox, the Rev. J. Wardlaw Thompson, D.D., the Rev. W. H. Findlay and Mr. Duncan McLaren.

PROGRAM.

It was the original plan to have two Program Committees, one for Great Britain and the Continent, and the other for the United States and Canada. The International Committee at Oxford, however, in selecting the Commissions and their subjects, determined a considerable part of the program. Manifestly, the program should be completed by those who are conversant with the work of the Commissions, who know what subjects are to be handled by them, what themes remain to be dealt with, and how these themes can be best related to the subjects of the Commissions, so that the program can be made a consistent whole. The American and British Committees, therefore, relieved the separate Committees on Program and

referred the completion of the work to the International Committee.

Hackneyed themes will be avoided as far as possible, and a deaf ear will be turned to representatives of special causes who may claim the time and endorsement of the Conference. We are not going to Edinburgh to listen to accounts of the work of various organizations, or to record anew our conviction that they "deserve the co-operation of all the churches." We are going to grapple with the big problems of modern missions. The time has come thoroughly to restudy the whole foreign missionary situation and to state it in terms of the modern world. Some of the motives which influenced our forefathers are less effective today, while other motives, of which they were faintly conscious, have become influential. Certain problems of a generation ago have been largely solved, so that they need little consideration; other problems, which were then relatively unimportant or which had not emerged at all, have now become vital and demand the careful thought of the ablest men and women of Christendom. Although less than a decade has elapsed since the New York Conference in 1900, the changes that have taken place are greater than the changes which transpired between that Conference and the London Conference in 1888. Stupendous transformations are taking place in the non-Christian world. A Native Church has developed in ways which call for both gladness and anxiety. The missionary enterprise has come into new relations with governments at home and abroad. It is acting upon and is, in turn, being influenced by political, social and intellectual movements of a momentous character. A more comprehensive survey of the non-Christian world and a more united consideration of missionary problems are now possible, and we confidently expect that contributions of positive value will be made and that the whole missionary enterprise will be presented to the world in a fresh, effective and commanding way.

COMITY AND CO-OPERATION.

Foreign Missions is forcing upon the world a new consideration of comity and co-operation, and we desire to place large emphasis upon this phase of the situation. Mission Boards cannot decide theological and ecclesiastical questions which divide the people of God; but they can and they must decide those questions of relationship which the conditions of foreign missionary work force upon them. We need not enlarge upon the progress that has already been made. Foreign missionary workers at home and abroad have done more to show the practicability of unity and co-operation than any other class of Christian workers. The Edinburgh Conference will give a demonstration of the growing practical unity of the people of God, and thus indicate lines along which further developments may be expected. The ground for this confident

assertion is that Foreign Missions is the only subject on which it would be possible to hold a World Conference of Christian leaders and the significance of the occasion will therefore be supreme.

If the Conference is to attain its object, it must be held to the purpose for which it is called, and that purpose is not to discuss whether Baptists should commune with Presbyterians, or whether the Anglican Church takes a proper attitude toward Non-Conformist ordinations, or whether the liberal or the conservative critic is right. Nor is the prestige of the Conference to be used by those who wish to exploit hobbies or pet schemes of any kind. In order that the Conference might be kept to its high purpose, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the International Committee:

"It was resolved to recommend that, whereas the purpose of the Conference is research and consultation regarding missionary work and problems, no resolution shall be placed before the Conference for vote unless it has first been submitted to and approved by two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee, or such other committee as may be constituted for this purpose; and no resolution shall be allowed which involves questions of doctrine or Church polity with regard to which the Churches or Societies taking part in the Conference differ among themselves."

The widespread interest which the Conference has already awakened is a stimulus to even larger effort. Eminent men in Europe and America, in Church and in State, are co-operating in making it notable. The Right Honorable Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K. T., has accepted the Presidency of the Conference, and the Vice Presidents are such men as the Right Honorable Lord Reay, G. C. S. I., the Right Honorable Sir John H. Kennaway, Bart., C. B., M. P., and Sir Andrew H. L. Fraser, K. C. S. I., LL.D.

When the matter was brought to the attention of the President of the United States, the Honorable William H. Taft, now President-elect, and the Honorable James Bryce, British Ambassador at Washington, they wrote us the following letters:

"Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D.D., Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Mr. John R. Mott, M. A., Mr. Silas McBee, Members, International Committee, Third Ecumenical Missionary Conference.

THE WHITE HOUSE, Washington, May 23, 1908.

GENTLEMEN:—I have received the announcement of the World Missionary Conference, composed of missionaries and missionary workers from all countries, which is to be held at Edinburgh, Scotland, in June, 1910. This is the third of these conferences, the first having met at Exeter Hall in London in 1888, and the second in New York in June, 1900. It was my good fortune, as Governor of New York, to be present at the Ecumenical Conference in New York.

It seems to me that this effort to bring together missionaries from all parts of the world and from every body of Christians, represents a movement of deep importance and singular impressiveness. The purpose of the Conference is, first, to concentrate the attention of the

entire Christian world upon the vast mass of human beings who have never yet heard the Gospel; and, second, to permit free consultation on the best methods of obeying the command to preach the Gospel to all the world. Surely we have a right to expect that the capacity for forethought and co-operation, that is, the capacity to look ahead and to unite to accomplish objects seen from afar—one of those high powers peculiar to civilization—shall be exhibited to a peculiar degree among those who preach the common salvation which comes through the Word of the Lord. In past history it has ever been true that all enterprises, whether of governments or of private individuals, whether of scholars or of men of action, have needed the awakening and controlling power of that high and self-sacrificing morality which accompanies the Christian religion; and nowadays it is needed more than ever because of the marvelous ways in which both the good and bad in civilized nations are being carried to the utmost parts of the earth. The forces of evil are more mighty than ever before; but so are the forces for good. It is an age of combination; and if we are to accomplish anything of value we must all strive together for a common end. If your committee can lay the foundations broad enough and deep enough to induce representatives of all Christian bodies to take part in this great World Conference at Edinburgh, far-reaching good cannot fail to result.

"With heartiest wishes for your success, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

"WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, May 25, 1908.

MY DEAR MR. MCBEE: I have your letter of the 20th of May, advising me that you are to attend the forthcoming World Conference at Edinburgh, which is to be held for the purpose of study and consultation by the leaders of the foreign missionary forces of the world concerning the questions of missionary opportunity and policy. I think such a conference as that you mention will be of great value to the missionary work of the world. The missionary societies have great responsibilities with reference to the expansion of civilization in distant lands as I came to realize much more fully than ever before in my contact with their work while in the Far East. No one can study the movement of modern civilization from an impartial standpoint and not realize that Christianity and the spread of Christianity are the only basis for hope of modern civilization in the growth of popular self-government. I beg to extend my good wishes to the Conference in its great work.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) WM. H. TAFT.

"BRITISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, June 26, 1908.

MY DEAR MR. MCBEE: Your account of the proposed World Missionary Conference has interested me greatly. There are some large general problems of missionary work which an interchange of views between thoughtful men bringing experience from different fields may help the churches at home and those who labor abroad to solve. The present time seems to be one when these problems have grown more urgent than ever before, in modern days at least, because the whole heathen and Mussulman world, except China and Japan, is now either ruled by or under the influence of nations professing Christianity.

"The ancient beliefs and customs of the non-Christian peoples are destined soon to pass away; and it becomes a matter of supreme importance to see that new and better moral and religious principles are given to them promptly to replace what is disappearing; and to endeavor to find methods for preventing the faults or vices of adventurers and others who are trying to exploit the uncivilized races from becoming a fatal hindrance to the spread of Christianity.

"With every good wish for the success of your Conference, believe me,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) JAMES BRYCE."

EXPENSES.

The expenses of the Committee have been estimated as follows:

1. *Executive Committee*:

(a) Postage and Stationery	$ 200 00
(b) Clerical assistance	1000 00
(c) Travel	750 00
(d) Sub-Committees	1000 00
(e) Miscellaneous	2000 00
Total	$4950 00

The Commissions will require additional sums, which are to be provided in the country in which the Chairmen reside and where, therefore, the Commission headquarters are established. As three of the eight Commissions have American Chairmen, we are thus responsible for their expenses. These Chairmen have made out the following budgets, which have been approved by the Executive Committee:

Commission No. 1	$ 9,900 00
Commission No. 5	700 00
Commission No. 6	950 00
Total for Commissions	$11,550 00

The larger estimate for Commission No. 1 is due to the fact that this Commission will prepare a statistical survey of present missionary operations analogous to the elaborate and valuable survey prepared by the Rev. James S. Dennis, D.D., for the Ecumenical Conference of 1900. Dr. Dennis is Chairman of the sub-committee which has this duty in charge.

The total estimated budget will therefore be $16,500. The raising of this sum has been committed to the Finance Committee, of which Dr. Schieffelin is Chairman. The Committee has received thus far $1,050. In compliance with the instructions of the Board's Conference of 1908, application has been made to the Bureau of Missions for the balance of the fund raised for the Ecumenical Conference of 1900. The expenses of the committee to date have been $1,235.54, leaving a deficit of $185.54. Pledges for additional sums are in hand, so that thus far there is no serious lack of money. The part of the work which involves expenditure, however, is only beginning, and it is hoped that some who read this report will promptly send their checks to Dr. Schieffelin, whose address is 170 William street, New York.

PRAYER.

It surely cannot be necessary, in closing, to dwell upon the urgent need of special prayer for the coming Conference. In the words of Mr. Oldham: "In face of the tremendous issues that have emerged in our modern, unified world, the Church of

Christ will meet in counsel regarding the means of carrying out His great command. If there be a spirit of humility, prayer and expectancy, how can we imagine what may be the outcome of such a Conference? What new discoveries may we not make of the will of Christ? What new discoveries of His power? If only we can enter into His will and power, may it not be the salvation of the world? On the other hand, there is the great and real danger that in the complication of a huge organization and the turmoil of a great assembly, we miss the essentials of the whole matter. It is that we may be saved from such sin, disloyalty and unbelief, that we ask for your prayers."

"There should," adds Mr. Mott, "be prayer for the Commissions, that with wisdom, thoroughness and courage they may prosecute their studies and arrive at conclusions which will open the path for marked advances in missionary activity and efficiency. There should be prayer for those responsible for selecting delegates, that the men and women of God's appointment may be sent to Edinburgh. Those who will be bearing the burden of responsibility for all the Conference arrangements should be the subjects of constant remembrance before God. There should be faithful intercession for the Conference itself, that a spirit of penitence and of genuine humility, open-mindedness and responsiveness because of present opportunities and obligations may mightily possess all the delegates; that the Spirit of God may markedly influence all addresses and discussions; and that the Church, dominated by a fresh vision of an unevangelized world and of that coming ecumenical, Christ-redeemed, triumphant multitude whom no man can number, may consecrate herself, as never before, to the sublime task of making Christ known and loved and obeyed by all men."

Arthur J. Brown, Chairman; Henry K. Carroll, Secretary; W. Henry Grant, Assistant Secretary; Thomas S. Barbour, James L. Barton, Harlan P. Beach, Samuel B. Capen, Henry N. Cobb, Walter R. Lambuth, Arthur S. Lloyd, R. P. Mackay, W. Douglas Mackenzie, Silas McBee, John R. Mott, William Jay Schieffelin, Paul de Schweinitz, Alex. Sutherland, Robert E. Speer, L. Norman Tucker, Executive Committee for the United States and Canada.